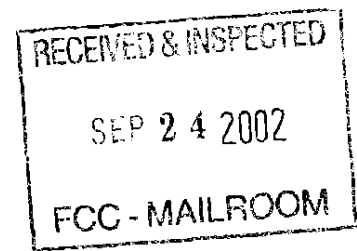


01-348

Marcia Simmons
1270 Dexter Street
Denver, Colorado 80220



August 11, 2002

Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Copps:

With this letter, I am writing to express my opposition for the merger of EchoStar and Direct TV.

It is impossible for me to fathom how it will serve citizens of this country to essentially have only one satellite television provider. In addition, EchoStar is a poor provider of service and is a poor example of corporate America.

I do not understand why this merger – which is a major transaction in federal communications – has received and continues to receive very little mention on the FCC website.

I can only guess that if the proposed merger is kept quiet until it is complete, unknowing customers of both companies will not have the opportunity to express opposition.

If the proposed merger were beneficial to consumers, both Direct TV and EchoStar would be sending out news releases on a frequent basis to drum up support from customers. Instead, since it is not beneficial for consumers, they have not promoted the merger to customers or the public.

Sincerely,

Marcia Simmons

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